

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Preliminary Amendment filed prior to receipt of the first action on the merits.

Claim 1 has been amended to correct grammar and punctuation and to place the independent claim in more usual claim form as a recitation of elements. Claims 3-4 have been amended to correct certain informalities. Claims 5 and 11 have been amended to include the terms quality assurance and quality control in place of their abbreviations and to correct other informalities. Claim 6 has been amended to remove the parenthetical phrase. Claim 10 has been amended to remove an optional element not part of the claimed invention and to correct a typographical error. Claims 18-19 have been amended to correct typographical punctuation errors. All other claims are unchanged.

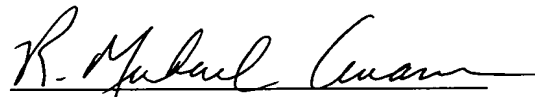
The claim amendments are presented in a revised format per the USPTO's announcement 'Amendments in a Revised Format Now Permitted', signed 31 January 2002, and accordingly do not conform to the current reading of 37 C.F.R. §1.121, which Applicants understand has been waived. Accordingly, a complete listing of all claims that are, or were in the application, along with an appropriate status identifier, is provided above in the section entitled "Amendments to the Claims". Markings are provided on claims amended in the present amendment.

Support for the above claim amendments can be found in the originally filed claims, specification, and drawings. No new matter is entered.

Although Applicant does not believe any additional fees are required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any such fees which may be required, including extension fees or fees associated with the filing of a Preliminary Amendment beyond a set date, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1300 (Our File A-70310/RMA).

Respectfully submitted,

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